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Avifaunal Diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its Adjoining Areas, Nagardeola, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract: The diversity of bird population indicates the overall health of an ecosystem. The aim of this study was to observe and record the diversity of birds of Agnavanti Dam, Nagardeola and its adjoining areas. This is the first avifauna report of Agnavanti Dam, Nagardeola and its adjoining areas. In this study effort has been made to record bird diversity of Agnavanti Dam, Nagardeola and its adjoining area during January 2023 to July 2023. In the present study total 104 species including water and the land birds were recorded belonging to 17 avifaunal orders and 46 families. Order Passeriformes was dominant in the study area, including 21 families and 42 species (40.38%), followed by Ciconiiformes with 3 families and 11 species (10.57%), Ansariiformes with 1 family and 8 species (7.69%), Charadriiformes with 5 families and 7 species (4.73%), Coraciiformes with 4 families and 6 species (5.76%), Cuculiformes with 1 family and 6 species (5.76%) and Pelecaniformes with 1 family and 4 species (3.84%). This study represents that species diversity is abundant because its backwater provides good food to the birds. This study will be useful for to make awareness among the peoples about the bird diversity of this area.

Keywords: Bird diversity, Agnavanti Dam, Avifauna, Passeriformes, Ciconiiformes, Ansariiformes, Charadriiformes, Coraciiformes, Pelecaniformes

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Introduction

The wetlands are found to be the richest zone of types of freshwater diversity. The efforts should make to conserve these aquatic systems. The birds population are important for the ecosystem and they play various important role such as predators of insect pest, pollinators and scavengers. Aquatic system is adjacent to terrestrial habitats. Aquatic invertebrates may

provide stopping sites to land bird migrants. The Lake water reservoir and ponds are providing stopping site to land bird migrants (Anon, 2000).

The main reason for the destruction of biodiversity seems to be rapid expansion of industries, agriculture, urbanisation and large scale development projects. Avifauna is an important constitute as well as important link in

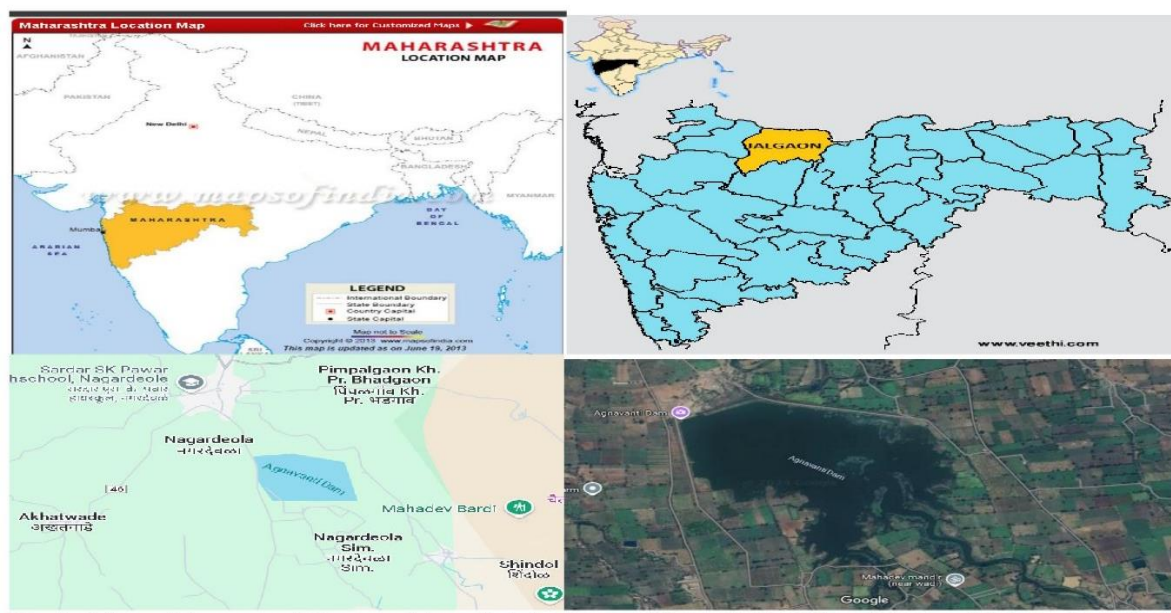


Fig. 1: Map of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, Nagardeola, Dist- Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India.

the food chain of an ecosystem. Birds have been considered as useful biological indicators because they are ecologically versatile and inhabit all kinds of habitat (Rastogi, 2001).

Although higher numbers of the bird species are migrants, most of these are elevational migrants over short distances depending on the weather condition and food availability. (Inskipp *et al.*, 2016) The special distribution of birds species, breeding success, and survival is influenced by the availability of key resources including food, water, vegetation cover, and whether condition (Adhikari *et al.*, 2020).

Birds play an important role in seed dispersal, pest control in crops, environmental cleaning as a natural scavenger, and crop pollination. The anthropogenic pressure and other environmental changes can affect the species; furthermore, the effect of deforestation and livestock grazing on the land cover and food requirement position affects on the abundance and distribution. Bird diversity data of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas is lacking; no one has reported the bird diversity of this area till today. In the present work an attempt has been made to observe and record the bird diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas.

Materials and Methods

Study Area:

The Agnavanti Dam (Fig. 1) is an earth-fill dam build across the Agnavanti River near Nagardeola village which belongs to Pachora tahsil, Dist- Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India. (20°32'40.1" N 75°13'11.7" E). Dam water is mainly used for irrigation and drinking water purposes. In its backwater there is a shallow water resulting in the production of muddy marshes towards the margin. It is surrounded by agricultural lands.

Nikon Aculon A211 10 x 50 Binocular for close observation of birds and for photography Nikon Coolpix B 700 camera was used. During this study the photo sampling was done between 6.30 to 11.00 h. and 16.30 to 18.30 h. Bird specimens were not collected, only photo and video with audio were prepared for the reference in the study. Book of Indian Birds by Ali (2002) and Birds of the Indian Subcontinent by Grimmett *et al.* (2011) were used as field guides. Internet Birds database was used for the identification of birds. Avifaunal diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, Nagardeola, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India was recorded during January 2023 to July 2023. Regular field work was made throughout

this period. Visits were carried out for two days a week during each month of the year in entire study period to report the bird diversity.

Results and Discussion

In the present bird diversity study, all various habitats like water bodies, and its adjoining area were observed for sighting the birds. In the present study total 104 species including water and the land birds were recorded belonging to 17 avifaunal orders and 46 families (Table 1).

Order Passeriformes was dominant in the study area, including 21 families and 42 species (40.38%), followed by Ciconiiformes with 3 families and 11 species (10.57%), Ansariiformes with 1 families and 8 species (7.69%), Charadriiformes with 5 families and 7 species (4.73%), Coraciiformes with 4 families and 6 species (5.76%), Cuculiformes with 1 families and 6 species (5.76%) and Pelecaniformes with 1 families and 4 species (3.84%), Gruiformes 1 family and 4 species (3.84%), Columbiformes with 1 family and 3 species (2.88%), Apodiformes with 1 family and 3 species (2.88%), Psittaciformes with 1 family and 3 species (2.88%), Falconiformes with 1 family and 2 species (1.92%), Galliformes with 1 family and 1 species, Bucerotiformes 1 family and 1 species, Strigiformes with 1 family and 1 species, Piciformes with 1 family and 1 species Podicipediformes with 1 family and 1 species (Table 1, Fig. 2). Photographs of few birds observed in this study are depicted in Figure 3.

Black Headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) was observed which is under near threatened (NT) category; they were found in 7 numbers. Painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) which is under near threatened (NT) were found in 9 numbers. Four number of Indian River tern (*Sterna aurantia*) was observed which are under the vulnerable (UV) category of IUCN status. During entire observation period ten species was flying close to stagnant water of dam, they were found very active in search of fishes. Little cormorants were found resting on the bank of the dam. Asian open bill was observed in shallow

water. They were finding their food in the shallow water using their long bill. Spot Billed Duck was found in two pairs in search of food. Two pair of Red-naped Ibis was found on the grassland bank of the dam. Population of passerine birds were found very good. The population of the house crow is very good because on one day there is a weekly market in the empty place of Agnavanti River area of Nagardeola village. When the market day is over, the remaining waste material, which was thrown by vendors in the empty places of the river makes availability of food for crows.

In past, the bird diversity of Bhoras Dam and its adjacent areas, Chalisgaon, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India has been reported (Shelke, 2023). In this study 90 species including water and the land bird were recorded belonging to 15 avifaunal orders and 43 families. Order Passeriformes was dominant, including 21 families and 36 species, followed by Ciconiiformes with 2 families and 09 species, Ansariiformes with 1 family and 7 species, Charadriiformes with 4 families and 6 species, Coraciiformes with 4 families and 6 species, (Shelke, 2023).

Shelke (2022) studied the bird diversity of Bahula Dam and its nearby areas of Pachora, Dist. Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India. During this study, 105 species including water and the land bird were recorded belonging to 16 avifaunal orders and 46 families. In this study order Passeriformes was dominant in the study area, including 23 families and 44 species, followed by Coraciiformes with 4 families and 7 species, Charadriiformes with 4 families and 6 species, Ciconiiformes with 3 families and 6 species and, Ansariiformes with 1 family and 9 species (8%) (Shelke, 2022).

Agnavanti Dam has a shallow water in their peripheral and backwater area with paddy field because of that it makes good favourable condition for growing of freshwater fauna. This environment provides good food for winter migratory birds as well as its adjoining areas provide good food for resident birds. Passerine birds exhibited a broad range of feeding habits

Table 1: Avifaunal diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, Nagardeola, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

S. No.	Orders and Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Ecological Status	IUCN Status
1.	Podicipediformes				
	1. 1. Podicipedidae	1. Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Pallas, 1764)	WM	LC
2.	Ciconiiformes				
	2. Ardeidae	2. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		3. Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
		4. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
		5. Large Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		6. Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i> (Sykes, 1832)	R	LC
		7. Median Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i> (Wagler, 1829)	R	LC
	3. Ciconidae	8. Black Necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i> (Linn.1790)	WM	NT
		9. Asian Open bill Stork	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	R	LC
		10. painted stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	WM	NT
	4. Threskiornithidae	11. Black Headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> (Latham, 1790)	R	NT
		12. Indian Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i> (Temminck, 1824)	WM	LC
3.	Ansariformes				
	5. Anatidae	13. Red Crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i> (Pallas, 1773)	WM	LC
		14. Spot Billed Duck	<i>Anas poicillorhyncha</i> (Forster JR,1781)	R	LC
		15.Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
		16. Rosy Shelduck	<i>Tadornaferruginea</i> (Pallas, 1764)	WM	LC
		17. Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
		18. Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
		19. Lesser whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	WM	LC
		20.Eurasian teal	<i>Anas crecca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
4.	Falconiformes				
	6. Accipitridae	21. Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i> (Gmelin, 1788)	R	LC
		22. Black Shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> (Desfontaines, 1789)	R	LC
5.	Galliformes				
	7. Phasianidae	23. Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i> (Gamelin G. F. 1789)	R	LC
6.	Gruiformes				
	8. Rallidae	24. White Breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauromis phoenicurus</i> (Pennant,1769)	R	LC
		25. Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		26. Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		27. Purple Moorhen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
7.	Pelecaniformes				
	9. Phalacrocoracidae	28. Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	R	LC
		29. Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i> (Temminck, 1824)	R	LC
		30. Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i> (Stephans, 1826)	R	LC
		31. Greater Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	R	LC
8.	Charadriformes				
	10. Recurvirostridae	32. Black Winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
	11. Charadriidae	33. Red Wattled Lapwing	<i>Venellus indicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		34. Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	WM	LC
	12. Scolopacidae	35. Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
		36.Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
	13. Sternidae	37. Indian river tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i> (J.E. Grey, 1831)	R	UV
	14. Glareolidae	38. Small pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i> (Temminck, 1820)	R	LC
9.	Coraciiformes				
	15. Alcedinidae	39.White Breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		40. Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		41.Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
	16. Meropidae	42. Little Green Bee eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i> (Latham, 1801)	R	LC

	17. Coraciidae	43. Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
	18. Upupidae	44. Common hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
10.	Columbiformes				
	19. Columbidae	45. Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (J. F. Gmelin, 1789)	R	LC
		46. Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelis chinensis</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	R	LC
		47. Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopellia senegalensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
11.	Psittaciformes				
	20. Psittacidae	48. Plum-headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
		49. Blossom Headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseate</i> (Biswas, 1952)	R	LC
		50. Rose Ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i> (Scopoli, 1769)	R	LC
12.	Cuculiformes				
	21. Cuculidae	51. Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i> (Vahl, 1797)	R	LC
		52. Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	R	LC
		53. Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		54. Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		55. Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> (Stephens, 1815)	R	LC
		56. Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i> (Boddaert, 1783)	R	LC
13.	Apodiformes				
	22. Apodidae	57. Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		58. Asian palm quick	<i>Cypsiurus balasinesis</i> (J.E. Gray, 1829)	R	LC
		59. Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i> (J. E. Dim, 1830)	R	LC
14.	Strigiformes				
	23. Strigidae	60. Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i> (Temminck, 1821)	R	LC
15.	Bucerotiformes				
	24. Bucerotidae	61. Indian Gray Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	R	LC
16.	Piciformes				
	25. Megalaimidae	62. Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i> (Statius Müller, 1776)	R	LC
17.	Passeriformes				
	26. Dicruridae	63. Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	R	LC
	27. Sturnidae	64. Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i> (J F Gmelin, 1789)	R	LC
		65. Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
		66. Rosy starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
	28. Corvidae	67. House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i> (Vieillot, 1817)	R	LC
		68. Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> (Wagler, 1827)	R	LC
	29. Pycnonotidae	69. Black headed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i> (Temminck, 1822)	WM	LC
		70. Red-Vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
	30. Timaliidae	71. Yellow Eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	R	LC
		72. Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i> (Dumont de Sainte Croix, 1823)	R	LC
		73. Large Gray Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i> (Sykes, 1832)	R	LC
	31. Sylviinae	74. Grey breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i> (Blyth, 1844)	R	LC
		75. Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i> (Sykes, 1832)	R	LC
		76. Ashy Wren Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i> (Sykes, 1832)	R	LC
	32. Turdinae	77. Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
		78. Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> (Linnaeus, 1776)	R	LC
		79. Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
	33. Motacillidae	80. White browed wagtail	<i>Motacilla aderspatensis</i> (J. F., Gmelin, 1789)	WM	LC
		81. White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (J F, Gmelin, 1789)	WM	LC
		82. Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
		83. Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla Citreola</i> (Pallas, 1773)	WM	LC
		84. Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> (Tunstal, 1771)	WM	LC
	34. Nectariniidae	85. Crimson Sunbird	<i>Nectarina minima</i> (Sykes, 1832)	R	LC

		86. Purple Rumped sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
35. Passeridae		87. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
36. Ploceidae		88. Baya weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	R	LC
37. Estrildidae		89. Black Throated Munia	<i>Lonchura kelaarti</i> (Jerdon, 1863)	R	LC
		90. Textured Breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		91. White throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
		92. Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i> (Vieillot, 1807)	WM	LC
38. Laniidae		93. Long- tailed shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	WM	LC
39. Muscicapidae		94. Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros rufiventris</i> (S. G. Gmelin, 1774)	WM	LC
		95. Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i> (Blyth, 1843)	R	LC
40. Aegithinidae		96. Common Lora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC
41. Rhipiduridae		97. Spot-breasted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</i> (Lesson, 1831)	R	LC
42. Cisticolidae		98. Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutoris</i> (Pennant, 1769)	R	LC
43. Hirundinidae		99. Dusky Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i> (Sykes, 1832)	R	LC
		100. Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i> (Leach, 1818)	WM	LC
		101. Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i> (Laxmann, 1769)	WM	LC
44. Campephagidae		102. Small minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i> (Linnaeus, 1776)	R	LC
45. Zosteropidae		103. Indian white-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> (Temminck, 1824)	R	LC
46. Alaudidae		104. Common Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	R	LC

Ecological Status: R = Resident, WM = Winter Migrant. IUCN= International Union for Conservation of Nature, LC= Lest Concern, VU = Vulnerable species NT= Near Threatened.

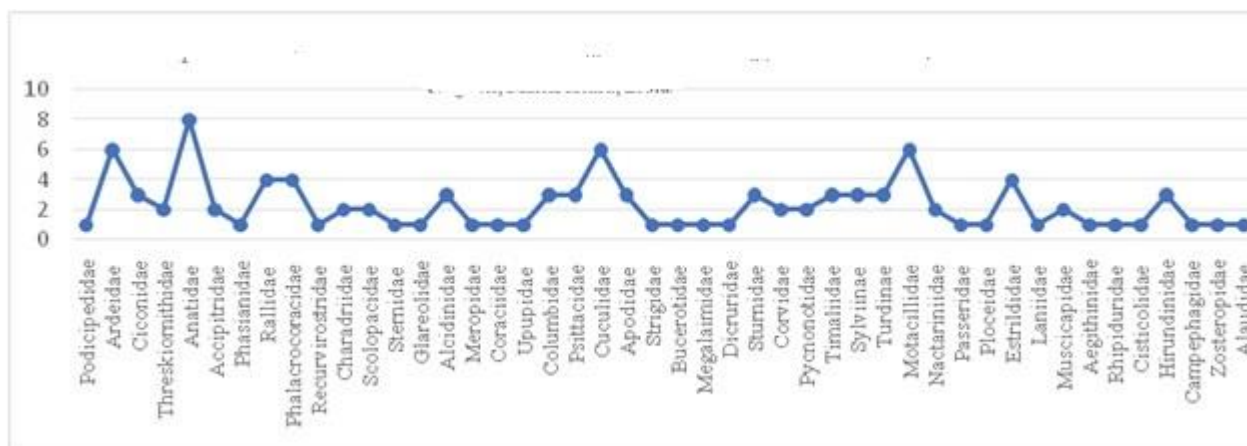


Fig. 2: Avifaunal diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, Nagardeola, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India.

both in agricultural fields and grassland areas. The present bird diversity study has been reported by capturing the quality photographs of water and land birds in their natural habitat. In the present study effort has been made to report bird diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, so that the people should aware about the diversity of bird of their local region. Local people's awareness will be useful for conservation of bird. But still there is a need of more surveys and observation to

produce detailed data.

Conclusion

The present study was performed on Avifaunal diversity of Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, Nagardeola, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India. During this study total 104 species including water and the land birds were recorded belonging to 17 avifaunal orders and 46 families. This Dam provides a good and natural habitat for the



Asian koel
(*Eudynamys scolopaceus*)



Oriental Magpie Robin
(*Copsychus saularis*)



Little Green Bee eater
(*Merops orientalis*)



Common hoopoe
(*Upupa epops*)



Median Egret
(*Mesophoyx intermedia*)



Black Shouldered Kite
(*Elanus caeruleus*)



Long-tailed shrike
(*Lanius schach*)



Rock Pigeon
(*Columba livia*)



Brahminy Starling
(*Sturnia pagodarum*)



Indian Silverbill
(*Lonchura malabarica*)



Purple Rumped sunbird
(*Leptocoma zeylonica*)



Laughing Dove
(*Streptopelia senegalensis*)



Cattle Egret
(*Bubulcus ibis*)



Rose Ringed Parakeet
(*Psittacula kramera*)



Greater Coucal
(*Centropus sinensis*)



Black Drongo
(*Dicrurus macrocercus*)



Red-Vented Bulbul
(*Pycnonotus cafer*)



Shikra
(*Accipiter badius*)



Indian Pond Heron
(*Ardeola grayii*)



White browed wagtail
(*Motacilla aderspatensis*)



Fig. 3: Photographs of few birds observed at Agnavanti Dam and its adjoining areas, Nagardeola, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India.

residential and migratory birds. The availability of water in a dam, especially shallow water, makes the favourable conditions for aquatic bird habitat. Presence of agricultural fields and tress around the peripheral areas of the dam provides good food and habitat for passerine birds.

Ethical Statement

No animal has been collected or sacrificed for this study, hence Ethical Approval not required.

Author Contributions

Author has read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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